

In one embodiment of the present invention, at the same time that the strength of the leather panel itself is increased, the bladder is protected. Therefore, also in the case where external force to break the leather panel is applied to the ball, the bladder is rarely damaged.

In one embodiment of the present invention, a great shock absorbing function can be obtained. When the ball hits a human body, a shock can be relaxed and pains can be relieved to get a soft feeling.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the woven fabric can protect the shock absorbing member and the bladder which are provided on the inside thereof. Furthermore, it is possible to obtain the shock absorbing function by the shock absorbing member.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the foaming member, the nonwoven fabric, the bulky woven fabric or the honeycomb construction member has light weight. Therefore, the weight of the ball itself can be reduced, and it is possible to obtain a shock absorbing and relieving function which is more excellent in the cushioning properties of the ball.

✓ • At page 22, line 1, please delete the heading "INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY."

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 10, add claim 12, and amend claims 1 and 8 to read as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A ball for a ball game comprising:
an elastic bladder having a form of a generally spherical hollow body into which compressed air is charged;
a cover rubber layer formed on a surface of the bladder; and
a plurality of leather panels bonded onto the cover rubber layer, wherein a peripheral edge portion of each leather panel is folded toward an inside, a reinforced layer bonded onto a back of the leather panels, and a thickness adjusting member contacting the reinforced layer and being surrounded by the folded portion of the leather panel.

35 8. (Twice Amended) The ball for ball game of claim 1, wherein the thickness adjusting member has a lamination structure of a woven fabric and a shock absorbing member.

36 11/12. (New) A ball for a ball game comprising:
an elastic bladder having a form of a generally spherical hollow body into which compressed air is charged;
a first reinforced layer formed on a surface of the bladder;
a cover rubber layer formed on a surface of the first reinforced layer; and
a plurality of leather panels bonded onto the cover rubber layer, wherein a peripheral edge portion of each leather panel is folded toward an inside, a second reinforced layer bonded onto a back of the leather panels, and a thickness adjusting member contacting the reinforced layer and being surrounded by the folded portion of the leather panel.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention; claims 1, 3, 4/1, 4/3, and 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 3,119,618 to Molitor et al. ("Molitor") in view of United States Patent No. 4,660,831 to Kralik ("Kralik"); and claims 2, 4/2, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Molitor in view of Kralik and Japanese Utility Model Application No. S38-16729 in the name of Ayukawa ("Ayukawa").

Applicants hereby amend claims 1 and 8, cancel claim 10, and add claim 12. Support for the subject matter of amended claim 1 and new claim 12 can be found at least in originally filed claim 10, FIGS. 6 and 7, and in the specification at page 13, line 4, through page 14, line 19.